

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 17 October 1979

The Director was in his office preparing for the Presidential Brief; Mr. Carlucci chaired the meeting. [ ]

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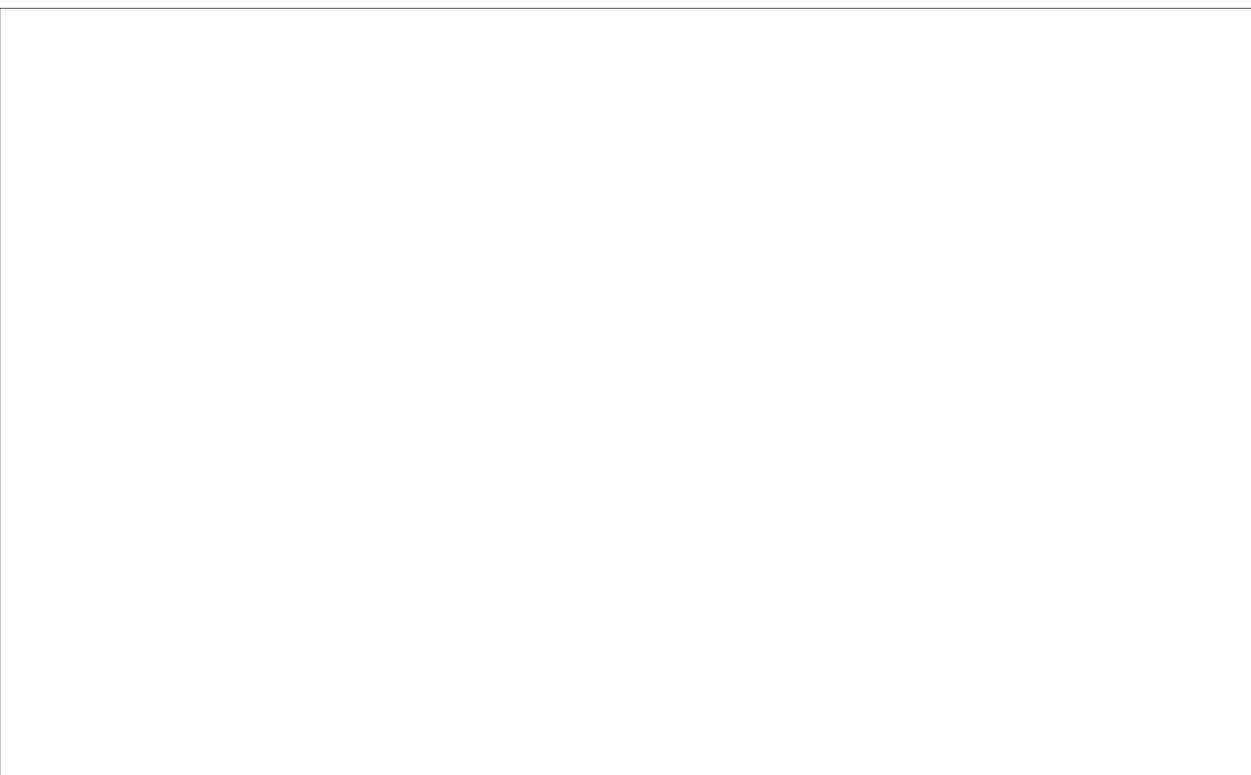
Lehman, alluding to reports that Brezhnev is seriously ill, commented that a leadership crisis is possible at any time. McMahon noted a report that the Soviets had advised Syrian President Assad that he is welcome to come to Moscow but will not be able to see Brezhnev. [ ]

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Mr. Carlucci expressed concern about the misleading DIA report highlighted in this morning's Executive Summary re Cuba which implies the Soviets are withdrawing troops from Cuba. Lehman said the full report makes it clear elements of the Soviet brigade are being rotated and replaced. [ ]

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Mr. Carlucci advised Hetu that he had seen [ ] of The Hearst Newspapers last evening and the latter had expressed much appreciation for a briefing provided by [ ]

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[ ] Mr. Carlucci also noted that he would be meeting with [ ] of Hearst who has written him expressing concern about Covert Action and what could be done about it. Mr. Carlucci suggested that the General Counsel and Hetu attend this session. (Action: GC) [ ]

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Clarke said that D/OER Maurice Ernst would be on the Hill today before the HPSCI Subcommittee in connection with their hearings on our recent world energy forecast. Hitz explained that the firm request was contained in a letter received yesterday from Chairman Boland and noted that he would be making recommendations concerning the Chairman's request for us to provide our rationale on 22 October for CIA's current policy of publishing unclassified documents on controversial topics. [ ]

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Clarke said that as a follow-up to Dr. Brzezinski's visit here, he has been invited to attend an NSC Staff meeting tomorrow where he will encourage broader contacts with NSC Staffers and Agency personnel. He noted that Dr. Brzezinski will not be attending the meeting. [ ]

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Hitz said the Defense Subcommittee will be considering our appeals letter next week and noted he is working with the Comptroller to develop some talking points for Mr. Carlucci's use in phoning various members before the meeting. At the moment travel funds and FOIA have been identified as topics on which to focus. [ ]

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Hitz noted that the Identities Bill will be introduced today before the House. He also advised that our Death Gratuities Legislation will be introduced with 140 sponsors. [ ]

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Hitz noted advice that on 31 October the House Appropriations Committee will be holding hearings on Soviet and Cuban activities in Central America and has requested a briefing. Clarke spoke of tentative plans to have [ ] (NIO/LA) provide the briefing. Hitz noted the importance of the topic and suggested Mr. Carlucci consider presenting the brief. McMahon noted that one should determine whether or not State will participate in the hearings prior to any DDCI decision. [ ]

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Silver reported that all Community General Counsels had a good weekend session [ ] He noted consensus to get behind efforts to pressure Justice to enforce the law with regard to leaks. He related his deep concern, however, over Ken Bass' statement that he considered his clients to be the "operating officials" rather than the heads of Community intelligence agencies. Silver asked those in attendance to keep him informed of any of Bass' initiatives to get in touch with their officers. [ ]

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Silver noted that he had visited Birmingham yesterday where he spoke to the Cumberland School of Law, Cordell Hull Speakers Forum. He observed that there was sentiment for better intelligence without too much regard for caveats re the handling of "U.S. persons." He suggested more than retired Agency officer groups should be lobbying for the same. Mr. Carlucci noted former General Counsel Tony Lapham's efforts with the ABA and [ ] group. He encouraged Silver to be helpful to same. [ ]

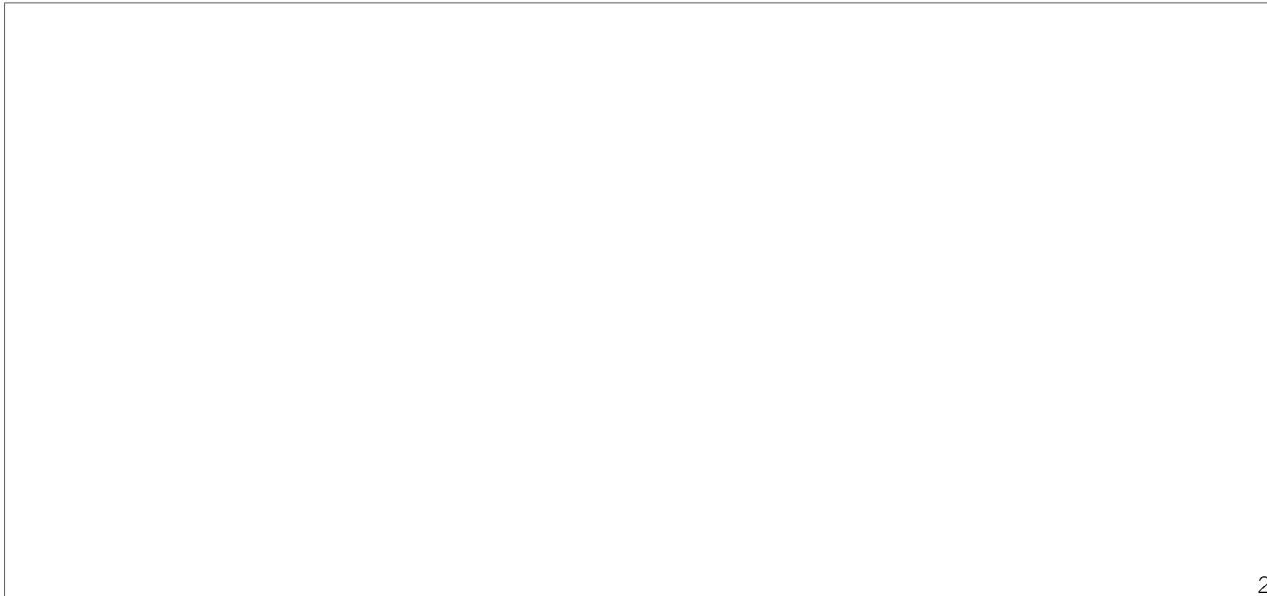
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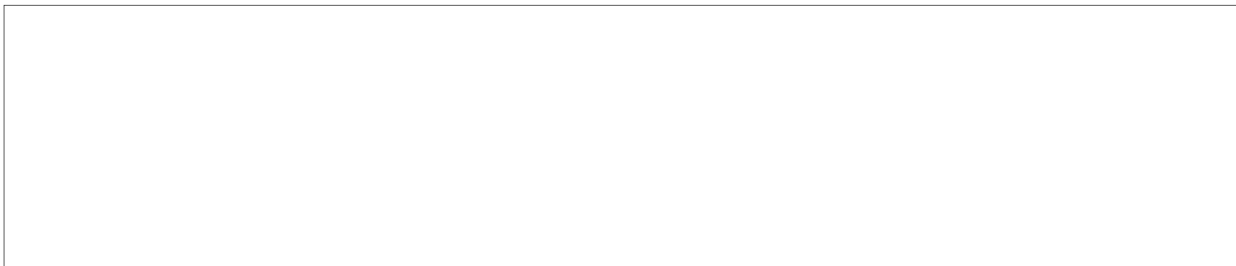
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Zellmer said Cuban SAM units were instructed to simulate firing at the SR-71 flight yesterday. [redacted]

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In response to Mr. Carlucci's query, [redacted] advised that there was nothing new on the Defense budget acceleration--it will be presented without the intelligence budget. A brief discussion followed, and [redacted] expressed doubt that a letter to the President would be appropriate in light of the Director's meeting with the President. [redacted]

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Mr. Carlucci asked those in attendance to remind supergrades in their components to attend tomorrow's briefing on SIS. [redacted]

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[redacted] conveyed the Director's request that we promptly disseminate and publish any information on the political orientation of the Junta's members in San Salvador. [redacted]

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